MARVEL

POWERS OF X

ISSUE 4 OF 6 — HICKMAN/SILVA/GRACIA

[kra_[0.1]
[koa_[2.1]

I fear our needs will far outlast our desires. We have many hard choices ahead of us.

-PROFESSOR X

[kra_[4.1]
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[kra_[8.1]...]
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[Xavier_alpha]

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[04] POWERS OF X

[ISSUE FOUR]...........SOMETHING SINISTER
X-MEN CREATED BY.................STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY

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[00_00....4]
[00_04....5]

[00_with...]
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[00_cape...]

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X°: The X-Men. Year One.
Bar Sinister.
Halt, strangers!
State your business...
...but please God don't ask for help or a handout, because--*while, yes,* we have much--we really can't be bothered with the sad problems of sad people... and oh look, you're wearing a cape. *How.* ***Perfect.***
I'm guessing you don't have an appointment. Because who wears ***that*** having the ***other.***
We do not have an appointment.
But it's important that we see ***Nathaniel Essex.***

Which one? There are *so many* of us.
We'll settle for the one in charge.
The one in charge.
Well. *Aren't you something.* Yes, the outfit's ridiculous, but you do have an air about you...there's no ***denying that.***
Your friend, *however...*
This just ***won't do.*** *It will not play well at court.*
A sad little man in his sad peasant suit, stuck in his sad little cha--
THUNK
urk!
Erik... *we need* this man.
No, Charles.
This man *needs* to decide if he wants to escort us inside or if he wants to *continue thusly* and suffer the ***consequences.***

Two minutes later.
Mister Sinister.
I present to you the mutants *Magneto* and *Professor Charles Xavier.*
Hello. Thank you for seeing us.
We've come to--
Stop.
Before either of you says another word I want to make *one thing* perfectly clear.
I. Love. That. Cape.
Amazing. Why do I not have a cape? How *do I* not have a cape?
It's a crime, sir. *An outrage.* Honestly, I've always thought you should wear one.
Well, if you really thought that, why didn't you ***say something?***
...
It slipped my mind.
Execute this man!

CHOP! CHOP! CHOP!
Now...
How can I help you?
Actually, it's our hope that we can help one another...
...as we're aware of your ongoing endeavors in the area of genetics.
Well, *honestly,* I'm not surprised word is getting out.
I do *amazing* work.
And how would you know about that?
Oh, we have our ways.

We also know about the library you're building. Your attempt at cataloging the world's DNA.
Don't judge.
I can't be shamed into changing who I am.
We don't want you to. What we're suggesting is a slight deviation of focus.
Continue with your broad indexing, if you want...but we need you to prioritize making a comprehensive database of all mutant DNA. Safe. Secure. Redundant.
We can provide you with samples you might have trouble getting on your own, including ours.
Well, as I'm sure even a serf would comprehend, the point of one collecting is found in the value of one's collection...
So explain to me why I would take such a special interest in the mutant gene.
I have seen the future...
...and this cause--mutantdom--is yours.
No. I think not. I've played around with introducing that aberrant gene into my superior genetic structure...and let me tell you--
I didn't like the results. And I won't tolerate any such--
BLAM!

But I will!
THUMP!
Psst! It's me! The Sinister with the mutant gene.
And if you must know, my mutant power is *overthrowing tyrants and being absolutely fabulous.*
I can see that.
So...we're in this together. I *love* the ambition. I *love* every bit of it.
So, tell me, *partners,* what's next for our sinful, secret confederacy?
First, you need to begin the *good work...*
And then, I need you to forget why you're doing it and that we were ever here...until the day I tell you to ***remember.***

THE RED DIAMOND

[All the best news and gossip from Bar Sinister]

SINISTER SECRET #1
He's trying to pretend that no one noticed he was wearing red shoes, but this truly sinister Sinister isn't fooling anyone.

SINISTER SECRET #2
And speaking of fashion, the whisper network has turned into a roar regarding the return of this trendsetting mutant who was cut down in his prime. Will someone please tell all these mutants to stop wearing human clothes and join the stampede across their island full of flowers to the flower that's the fullest?

SINISTER SECRET #3
Years ago, a deceased redheaded pretender made a pact with the devil. When she passed on, most believed that any secrets she had went with her to the grave. Won't everyone be surprised when they find out not only is this not true, but she left behind a whole lot more than secrets.

SINISTER SECRET #4
While every Sinister has been busy wondering how they might be affected by current events, almost no one noticed what washed ashore. A word of advice to all things sinister: Don't embrace the revelry, or there won't be anything for you to celebrate.

SINISTER SECRETS REVEALED!
Certain people are wondering where the tyrant-dispelling Sinister got his mutant gene. And while that really isn't an interesting story, whom the DNA originally belonged to is.

[John Proudstar/Thunderbird]

STAN'S SOAPBOX • MAY 1969

RVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS • MARVEL BU

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NG ANNOUNCEMENTS TO YAW

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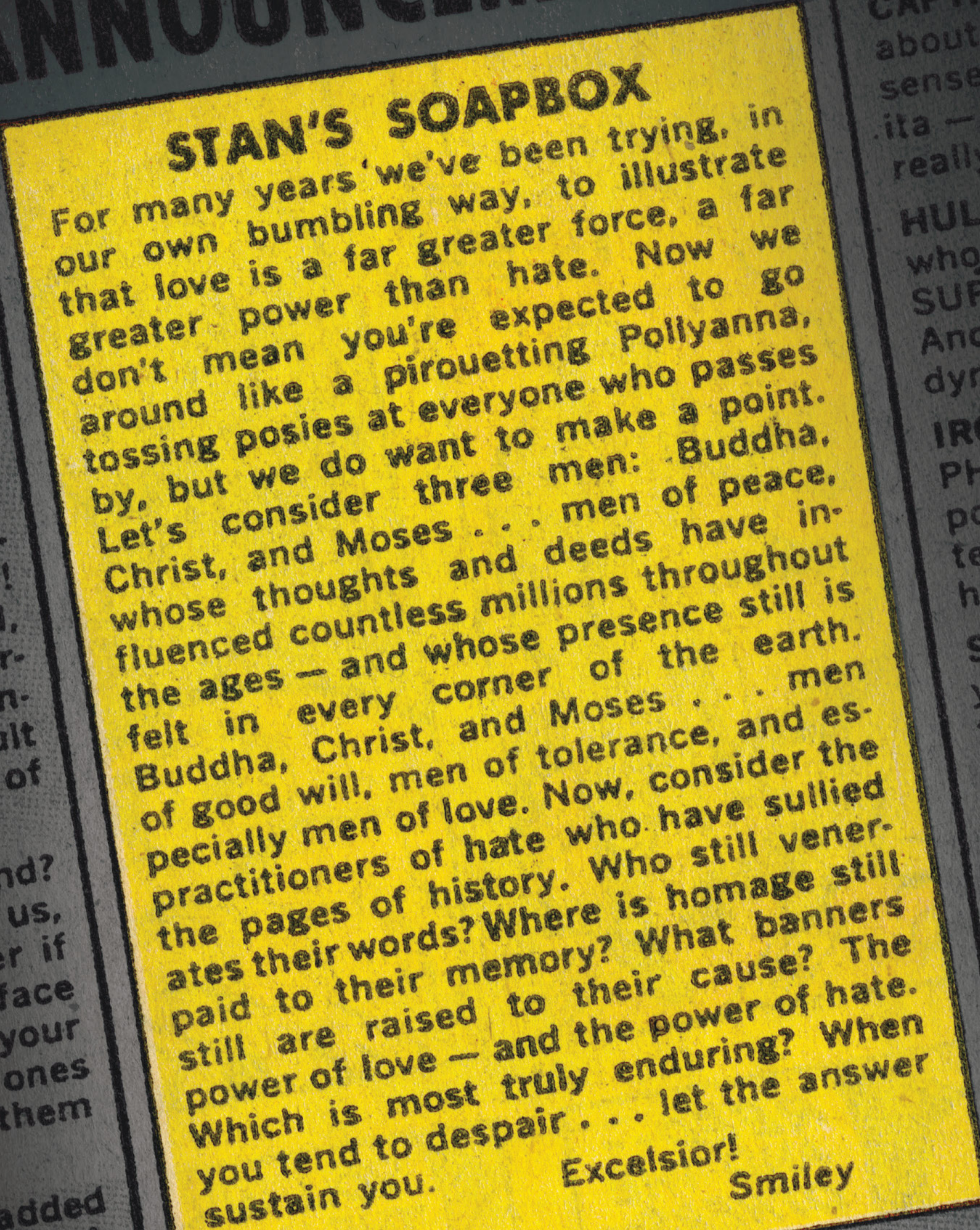

STAN'S SOAPBOX

For many years we've been trying, in our own bumbling way, to illustrate that love is a far greater force, a far greater power than hate. Now we don't mean you're expected to go around like a pirouetting Pollyanna, tossing posies at everyone who passes by, but we do want to make a point. Let's consider three men: Buddha, Christ, and Moses . . . men of peace, whose thoughts and deeds have influenced countless millions throughout the ages — and whose presence still is felt in every corner of the earth. Buddha, Christ, and Moses . . . men of good will, men of tolerance, and especially men of love. Now, consider the practitioners of hate who have sullied the pages of history. Who still venerates their words? Where is homage still paid to their memory? What banners still are raised to their cause? The power of love — and the power of hate. Which is most truly enduring? When you tend to despair . . . let the answer sustain you.

Excelsior!

Smiley

GRAINGER, North Carolina . . . our pal SAL BUSCEMA, Virginia; while Jaunty J. STERANKO and Joltin' J. CRAIG both have their pads in Pennsylvania . . . Torrid TOM SUTTON, Massachusetts . . . JIM (Madman) MOONEY, Connecticut . . . and Valiant VINCE COLLETTA, Jumpin' JOHNNY SEVERIN, and Genial GENE COLAN, all nesting in New Jersey! The rest of us share the same high taxes and traffic jams in New York and Long Island — darn it! (And we never DID find out where Honest Irv holes up!)

Now, before cutting out, we've just gotta tell you about Jolly SOLLY BRODSKY. A few days ago he announced that he, stunned the children were finally to prepare

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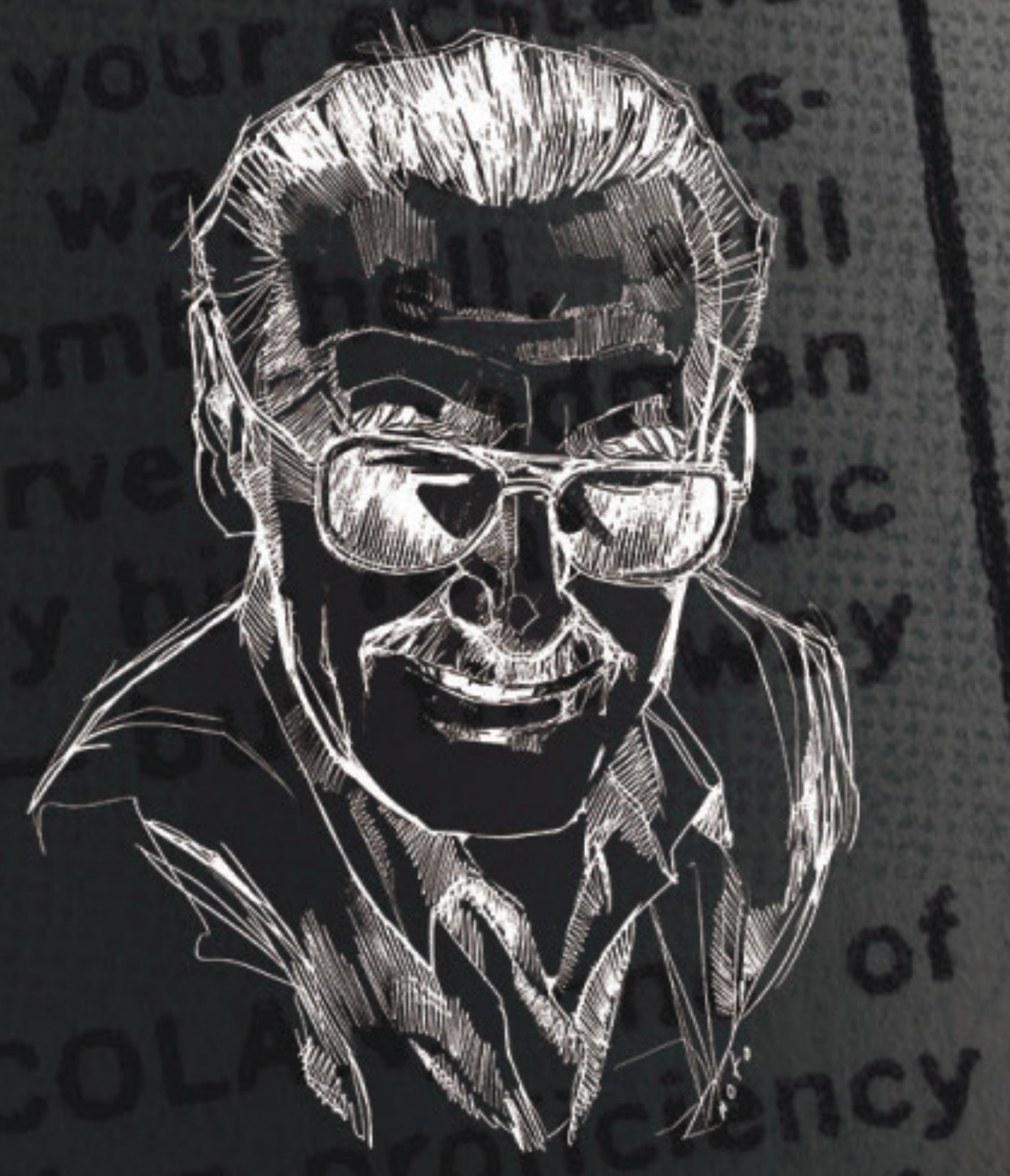


STAN LEE
FOREVER

SINISTER SECRET #5

He's the best there is at what he does. She's married with a kid. The husband knows exactly what's going on, but who is he to point the finger? He's up to much the same, and more. Maybe this is just the new normal on the mutant island.

SINISTER SECRET #6

Everyone believed that the plan of this progerian mutant with secret sinister ties was foiled, but little did the gifted ones know that the destroyed samples were switched out beforehand.

SINISTER SECRET #7

Two brothers jumped out of a plane, and for the longest time, until he was discovered, many wondered if there was a third. If we told you there were more, would you believe me? Probably not.

SINISTER SECRET #8

For years, this fittest-of-all mutant has routinely surrounded himself with a particular-numbered entourage. These hangers-on stick around for a while until they are eventually replaced with newer, more exciting members. What most people don't know is that if the original members returned, these pretenders would be dropped so fast their heads would spin.

SINISTER SECRET #9

They say the kids are all right, but all is not right in paradise. This non-couple couple has been apart so long, friends are expecting that when they see each other again fireworks are going to ensue. Is the universe ready? Judging by how unprepared everyone was for what's happened so far, we kind of doubt it.

SINISTER SECRETS REVEALED!

We don't hear this word spoken often, so when we do, it's best to pay attention, because when you square that circle, what took a long time to build can come crumbling down rather quickly.

[Inferno]

SINISTER SECRET #10

Which brainwashed mutant Sinister was replaced long before a certain bald somebody knew and has been in on the game for almost as long as the game was being played? *Shhhhhhhh!*

X¹: The X-Men.
Months ago.
I'm not *gonna lie,* Professor.
I wish you told me we were taking a *vacation.* I would've packed a *bathing suit*...and probably some sunscreen.
Oh, that the world would allow those like you and me some respite from the toils of everyday life, Douglas...
I'm sorry to say...this is not a *vacation.*

This is *Krakoa.*
Oh, cool. The secret island where mutants come to die.
Fantastic.
Excellent choice, sir.
Is it wrong to expect more than sarcasm from someone whose mutant power is understanding and deciphering the nuances of any language?
Uh...
Yeah.
Heh. Sorry.
It's quite all right...
The days of Krakoa being our adversary are long past. It took some effort to understand the island, but eventually I was able to telepathically make a connection.
From there the relationship between mutant island and mutant man has grown.

Come on. I want the two of you to *meet*.
Here we are.
Say hello, Douglas.

Oh.
Hi there, big fella.
Whoa. Okay...
No fricatives, which makes sense, but the layering is dense...more than I would normally expect.
I'm picking it up, but I need more.
Ask him something else. How he's feeling or whatever.
How are you feeling today, my friend?
He says he's **sad.**
Let me guess. The telepathic conversation you're having is a lot closer to empathetic than actual language, *right?*
I mean, yeah, you're talking, but not at a *complex, nuanced level.*
"Xavier, friend. Island, friend. Friends, happy. Friends, many years." *That kind of thing, yeah?*
Are you saying Krakoa isn't sad?
So what did he say?
No, he's definitely unhappy, it's just a bit more complicated--*deeper*--than that.

I'm sure I missed some of it, but...
"We were Okkara. The one land.
"Ancient before that word existed, but not yet old in the way that *they* were old.
"The twilight sword of the enemy tore the world asunder, and what was one became two:
"Arakko and Krakoa.
"And from the chasm between them--*from whatever wicked place they came*--the enemy poured into this world.

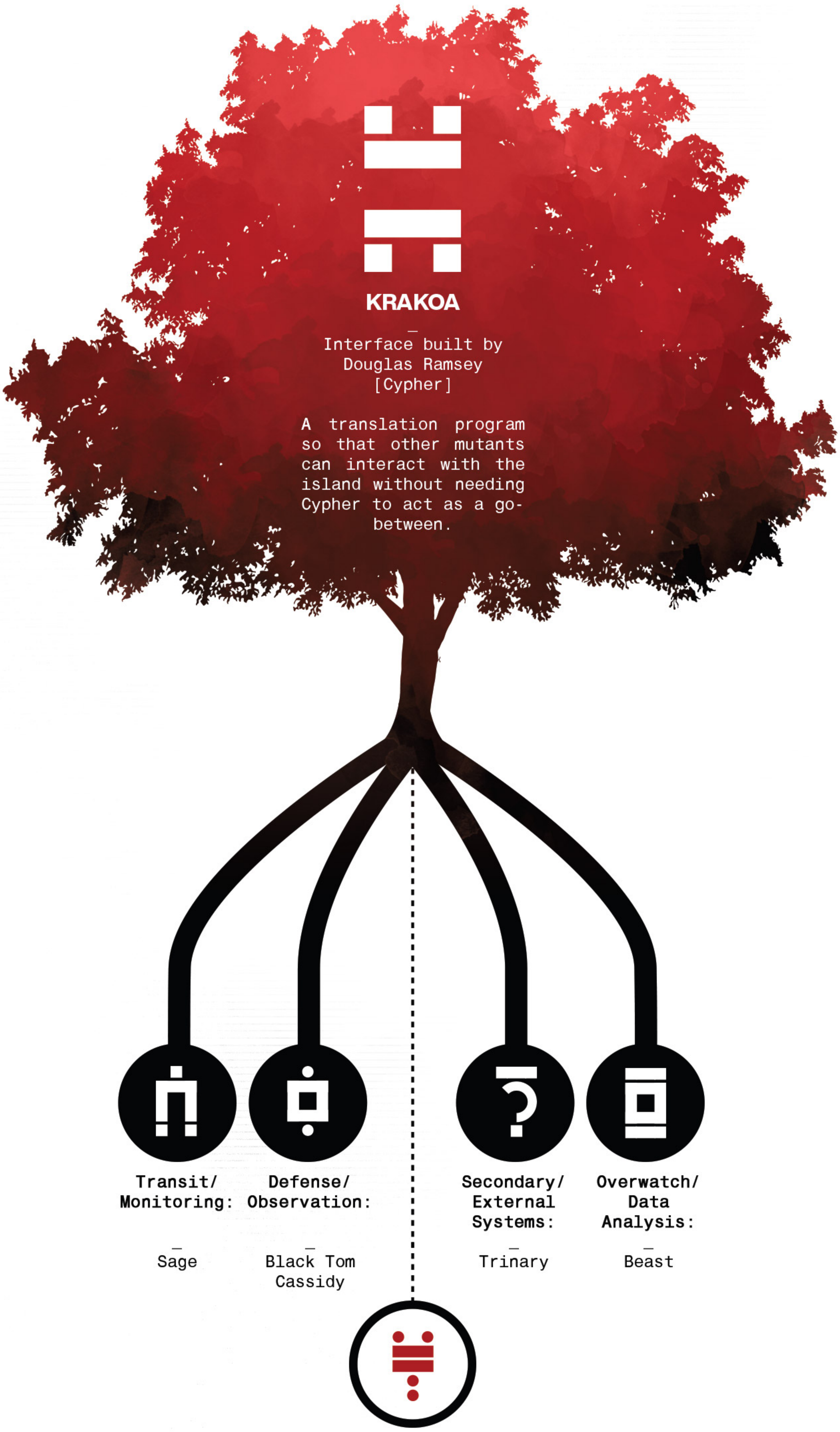
"If not for the man who was not a man--*the first mutant*--**the warrior-god in blue**--the world would have fallen.
"But using all his mighty powers, he stood in the gap--*pushed Arakko through the chasm*--set his **FOUR** to sentinel that land...and sealed the chasm shut.
"Never to be opened again.
"It was a thing that had to happen--*it was*--but Krakoa remains alone--*a half not whole*--for now and forever..."
...or *something* like that.

Later.
Man, it sure is beautiful here.
I'm glad you like it.
I was hoping that you wouldn't mind spending some time here on your own.
Ah, Professor X *has plans*...
I'm interested.
It's better if I show you.
Okay.

…
…
Well. That's ambitious.
What worth doing isn't?
How long will it take?
Phonology. Syntax. I'll have to build an interface. The ecosystem is an unknown, so that'll be tricky…
I dunno, months… maybe a year if I'm terrible at this…
How's that sound?
Like you've got quite a bit of work ahead of you, young man.
Best get to it.

[Flo_wers]..................[X]
[Kra_koa.4.1](Cypher_sys)...[0]

CURRENT KRAKOAN SYSTEMS



KRAKOA

Interface built by
Douglas Ramsey
[Cypher]

A translation program so that other mutants can interact with the island without needing Cypher to act as a go-between.

Transit/ Monitoring:

Sage

Defense/ Observation:

Black Tom Cassidy

Secondary/ External Systems:

Trinary

Overwatch/ Data Analysis:

Beast

NOTE: While there has been no actual evidence of a Krakoan skunkworks existing, there are rumors of a massive subterranean laboratory where Forge is busy building biological machines that could possibly be used to manage a mutant expansion on the island.

X³: The X-Men. Year One Thousand.
I am the first of elders. And this, my seer-self.
We are *ready* for conversion. We *hope* for ascension.
WE-[PHALANX]-CARE-LITTLE-FOR-HOPE
WILL-YOU-ASCEND
We have to try, don't we? Isn't that what's next?
The idea of your great union existing just beyond our reach is something we cannot tolerate.
Do it.

Well...
Am I in there anywhere?
ANYWHERE-THERE-IN-WE-[PHALANX]-AM
If so, then you'll know the sequence. As I know the sequence. And between us, we the only two.
THERE-WAS-A-CITY-ON-THE-MOUNTAIN-AND-BEHIND-IT-THE-SUN-SHONE-BRIGHTLY-AND-THEN-TOO-BRIGHTLY-AS-IT-EXPANDED-TO-CONSUME-THE-CITY-THE-MOUNTAIN-THE-WORLD
So...*it* worked.

YES-IT-WORKED
The question remains.
Yes. Do you find this form-- *this conversion--* acceptable?
AWAIT-RESPONSE
AWAIT-ANSWER

I don't understand what just happened.
The Phalanx are the forerunners of a galactic empire that we believe has dominion over the entirety of the known universe.
Of course, "empire" isn't accurate--*as we believe that neither their actions nor desires are in any way imperial*--it's just the only word that conveys the scale of what we're talking about.
What do they want?
It's not what they *want*. It's what they *do*.
The Phalanx have the ability to integrate any machine intelligence into their collective, which after a period of time--*if that intelligence is found useful*--**worthy...**
...it will eventually ascend and be part of the greater collective--*subsumed into the empire.*
Clearly, we now know they find us useful--*which should be celebrated*--but here you are, not celebrating at all. Not one bit.

Everything always comes down to a question of cost, *doesn't it?*
The problem is that this method doesn't work with ***biological entities.***
So the Elder made a host machine-- *an empty vessel*--and copied himself over to it before the Phalanx absorbed it.
We just confirmed that he was in there somewhere.
Foreboding, isn't it, Librarian?
That they want us and not you.
So you're trying to *trick* them?
No. We don't think there's any tricking them...we just hope we've found a way around the problem.
"*Now we wait* to see if they find it ***acceptable.***"

[kra_[0.1]
[koa_[2.1]

I'm not afraid of what I've done, but
I do fear what it will one day cost.

-PROFESSOR X

[kra_[4.1]
[koa_[6.1]

[kra_[8.1]...]
[koa_[9.1]...]

[Xavier_alpha]

READING ORDER

TWO SERIES THAT ARE ONE:

HOUSE OF X #1:	JULY 24, 2019
POWERS OF X #1:	JULY 31, 2019
HOUSE OF X #2:	AUGUST 7, 2019
POWERS OF X #2:	AUGUST 14, 2019
POWERS OF X #3:	AUGUST 21, 2019
HOUSE OF X #3:	AUGUST 28, 2019
HOUSE OF X #4:	SEPTEMBER 4, 2019
POWERS OF X #4:	SEPTEMBER 11, 2019
HOUSE OF X #5:	SEPTEMBER 18, 2019
POWERS OF X #5:	SEPTEMBER 25, 2019
HOUSE OF X #6:	OCTOBER 2, 2019
POWERS OF X #6:	OCTOBER 9, 2019

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ZONE